Drugs exempted from Excise Duty

4460. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent budget certin drugs in list-1 are exempted from excise duty and C.V.D.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in list-2, the intermediates used in manufacture of drugs of list-1 are also exempted from duty and C.V.D.; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not including 2-Cyanopyrazine, an intermediate used for manufacture of Pyrazinamide in List-2?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Under Notification No. 4/97 dt. 1.3.97, 21 specified bulk drugs as mentioned in list I and only 24 specified goods used in their manufacture as mentioned in list 2 attract nil rate of Excise Duty.

(c) List 2 under notification No. 4/97 dt. 1.3.97 does not include all the goods used in the manufacture of bulk drugs mentioned in list 1 but only such goods in whose case the Govt. has decided to levy Excise Duty at nil rate.

Production and capacity utilisation of fertilizer plants

4461. SHRIMATI BASNTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMA-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the unit-wise details of production and capacity utilisation during last three years, with repsect to the fertilizer plants in our country;

(b) how do these compare with the developed countries; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance the efficiency of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SEES RAM OLA): (a) to (c) A statement giving unit-wise details of production and percentage capacity utilisation of fertilizer plants during the last three years is enclosed. (*See* below)

The capacity utilisation of nitrogenous plants, excluding the sick units, has been quite satisfactory by global standards. Following the de-control of phosphatic fertilizers in August 1992, the production and capacity utilisation of the plants in this sub-sector were adversely affected. However, after the recent increase in the special concession on phosphatic fertilizers, there has been a tangible improvement in the situation.

Many of the older fertilizer units have, from time to time, undertaken the modernisation/revamp of their units by incorporating retrofittng and technology upgradation measures. Energy saving devices have also been incorporated to make the plants more energy efficient.